

HOUSE BILL 1185
By Buck

AN ACT to amend Tennessee Code Annotated Section 71-3-502,
relative to the rating system for childcare agencies.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE:

SECTION 1. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 71-3-502(j)(2), is amended by adding
the following as a new subdivision:

(F) In lieu of compliance with the environment rating scales element of
the program assessment for the mandatory childcare agency report card system
established in conformity with the provisions of subdivision (j)(2), a childcare
agency may elect to be accredited by a national accrediting agency approved by
the commissioner of human services. The National Association for the Education
of Young Children, the National Association of Family Child Care, and the
National Early Childhood Education Program Accreditation are initially certified
as childcare accrediting agencies for purposes of this item. The department shall
establish by rule the criteria for certification of additional childcare accrediting
agencies and procedures for decertification, for purposes of this subdivision, of
any childcare accrediting agency. Childcare agencies electing to maintain
approved accreditation shall not be required to participate in the environmental
rating scales element of program assessment in the report card system.

SECTION 2. This act shall take effect on July 1, 2005, the public welfare requiring it.